

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1291 for sources of new things described. Send a self-addressed envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **CHROMATOGRAPHY KIT** for laboratories contains all equipment and materials needed to obtain complete chromatographs for thin-layer chromatography. The kit contains precoated plates, spotting pipets, solvent chambers, aerosol-powered detection reagents, test dyes and other items. An instruction leaflet on thin-layer chromatography is included.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

⚙️ **RECORD DUSTER** frees record of dust and lint with one or two turns of the record. The duster, measuring six inches long and $\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide, is made with silicone-treated nylon that cleans the grooves of the record without harming the record. The removable unit may be used by resting it upon the record while the turntable is revolving, or by rotating it by hand.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

⚙️ **TAPE MAILING BOXES**, designed especially for tape correspondents who send tape recordings by mail, eliminate the need for recorders to use makeshift boxes or purchase new tape to secure the proper size packaging unit. The boxes, which take reels up to three inches in diameter, are ready for addressing and mailing and are available in sets of 12.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

⚙️ **DECORATIVE LAMP**, shown in photograph, imported from Holland, is composed



of three lighted roses of different colors that glow softly when lighted. Arranged on a piece of tree bark with a spray of fern, the flexible plastic bouquet can be arranged as desired. The lamp can be hung from a hook on the wall or used as a table lamp. The light comes complete with bulbs and electric cord.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

⚙️ **HANDY METAL MARKER** writes on glass, metal, plastics and all other non-porous surfaces smoothly and permanently. Useful in laboratory, shop, office or home, the marker comes in nine opaque colors for labeling bottles, tools, metallic sheets, storage cans and filing cabinets quickly and easily. Its controlled valve action feeds ink instantly and steadily. The nibs are replaceable.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

⚙️ **TRANSPARENT METABOLISM UNIT** for laboratory rats, mice and hamsters is made of clear, high-impact plastic and can accommodate animals up to 400 grams. Its feeder design minimizes food scatter, and an animal holder cage that can be easily detached from the unit simplifies the collection of samples without transferring the animals. Easy to clean and sterilize, it can be used on table, bench or rack.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

⚙️ **VERSATILE BRAKE** for workshop, laboratory or hobby shop smoothly and cleanly bends the edges of metal sheets of 16 gauge thickness or less. The tool, which handles metal up to 18 inches in width, is designed with one-inch deep slots in which the side flanges are inserted. Pressure is applied by lifting a metal bar to form the rims of boxes, trays, covers or shelves of the desired angle.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965

• Doctors Are Reading •

Lesions Give Clue

➤ **PREVENTION OF CANCER** is a brighter prospect than cure.

There is still room for a cautious optimism about the possibilities for treatment, particularly, perhaps, in the fields of chemotherapy and immunology, but Dr. Richard Doll of the University College Medical School, London, reported that cancer prevention has become a major function of public health.

Among the developments that make prevention possible is the discovery that cancers of the cervix, or neck of the womb, are preceded by lesions that can be removed by a conservative operation before they invade the womb.

Lesions comparable to those found in the cervix have also been found in the bronchial tree of men who were heavy smokers. If the men stopped smoking, the lesions disappeared within five to ten years.

In a few rare instances, genetic factors are of overwhelming importance, Dr. Doll said. Polyps of the colon, for example, are determined by a single dominant gene and lead almost invariably to cancer of the large bowel unless they are removed, Dr. Doll reported in the *British Medical Journal*, Feb. 20, 1965.

Artist's Disease Blamed on Parents

➤ **THE FACT** that the parents of the dwarf artist, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, were first cousins is partly blamed for the bone condition that caused his various abnormalities.

Pycnodysostosis, meaning a condensing bone condition, is the disease that two physicians in Paris say was the malady of the French artist whose paintings at the Moulin Rouge, along with other masterpieces, made him famous. The consanguinity of his parents is an important argument in favor of the "autosomal recessive transmission" of his disease.

None of the previous diagnoses of the artist's disease completely describe his symptoms, Drs. Pierre Maroteaux and Maurice Lamy reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 191:715, 1965.

Ultrasound Diagnoses Heart Ailment

A desperately ill 14-year-old boy is alive today because of a bedside diagnosis by ultrasound.

The ultrasound examination was made with a commercially available ultrasonoscope while the boy was under an oxygen tent in Indianapolis, a team of Indiana University physicians reported in *JAMA*, 191:711, 1965.

This diagnostic procedure, which is no more difficult than obtaining an electrocardiogram, was used to detect the escape of fluid from the membranous sac surrounding the heart, called pericardial effusion.

Drs. Harvey Feigenbaum, John A. Waldhausen and Lloyd P. Hyde reported the study from the Heart Research Center, Indiana University School of Medicine, and the Krannert Heart Research Institute, Marion County General Hospital, both in Indianapolis.

• Science News Letter, 87:175 March 13, 1965